

# Northern bog lemming survey

**1993**

A Report to:

USDA Forest Service

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### **ABSTRACT**

During the 1993 field season we surveyed for small mammals at 30 sites, catching northern bog lemmings at 5 new sites. One site, Wood Creek on the Rocky Mountain Ranger District, Lewis and Clark National Forest, is the eastern-most site known in Montana and 90 km from the nearest previously known site. Three sites on the Kootenai National Forest were in the Sunday Creek drainage, 1-6 km from the site discovered there in 1992. The last new site, also in the Kootenai National Forest, was found at Cody Lake, 32 km from the nearest known site. Despite surveys at 5 sites with apparently good-excellent habitat on the Flathead National Forest, no new lemming sites were found there. The total number of known bog lemming sites in Montana is 17, the most sites in any of the lower 48 states. All sites found during 1993 had moss mats at or near the trap location. Known sites in Montana range in size from 1 to approximately 340 acres. The best habitat predictor for potential northern bog lemmings sites in Montana is the presence of large, thick moss mats, particularly sphagnum moss. More sites with apparently good quality habitat were trapped unsuccessfully in 1993 than 1992; whether lemmings are actually present at some or all of those sites is unknown.

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